

My Affirming Statement ~

Good Morning, :)

My name is Mary, and I have known God's love through our Church Community.

You may have seen me taking part in various activities; such as with our Bell Choir Bellissimo, Rummage Sales of years past, becoming confirmed, under the Guidance of Rev. Anne Gowans-Blinn, taking care of our little ones in the Toddler Rooms of years past. Growing up in this community, our songs remind us to let our light shine, and Jesus Loves me, this I know.

I take for Granted, that God loves me. I take for Granted that I can come before you, struggling with my mental health, struggling with my self-esteem, but never feeling judged for these things, certainly never by my Church Community. I have only always felt acceptance.

Love is kind. It always protects. It keeps no records of wrongs. It does not envy.

Part of my journey, in this lifetime, I believe is to help others to share in the abundance of joy around us.

I am a Special Ed. Teacher at a High School in Richmond Hill. I started my Teaching Career in 2007, focusing in Visual Art and Drama, and I have been witness to incredible talent and skill and impressive hard work from the students, and never have I felt as fulfilled as an educator, than during my time spent with my Complex Needs students.

In truth, to see my students walking toward you can be very alerting. They are both over 6'4" and are "termed non-verbal" yet those of you who know, non-verbal people have many clear ways to communicate. In their eyes, I see beautiful, loving souls, with great humour, patience, and strength of will.

I have seen and felt how society has stigmatized, devalued and excluded differently-abled people, due to their unusual styles of communicating and moving through our world, variables they absolutely could not control.

God reminds us we are not to judge, but to remember to reconcile and make new, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others.

God has prepared a table for us all, with love.

I am so proud that Our Church is a loving beacon, which through this processing of Affirm' is proudly stating, "we are making room" to discuss privilege and bias. We are making room to reflect on barriers of learning. We are making room to address the gaps in a way that respects and honours the contributions of all.

I am proud of our Affirmations to protect and serve us all.

Thank you.

Mary Munro